

DRAFT

Human Services Advisory Committee

Minutes of September 28, 2016 Meeting

Present: Ron Baker (Member at Large); Wil Bigl (Commission on Aging); Ethel Mantzaris, Chair (Youth Services Advisory Committee); Victoria Nimirowski (WAIM);

Absent: Joan Terry (Mansfield Senior Center Association); Lorraine Kenowski (Member at Large); Carol Norrish (Mansfield Advocates for Children)

Staff: Pat Schneider (Director of Human Services)

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. The minutes from the April 27, 2016 Meeting were approved as written.

Staff Report: Pat updated the committee on the work and staffing of the Human Services Department.

- Katherine Bell, Psy.D. has been hired as the Youth Services Supervisor. Her first day of employment will be October 17, 2016. Sarah Dufresne, Outreach Social Worker, will assist with YS programs until the division is fully staffed.
- The fund development effort raised over \$4400 and was able to help 38 children attend camp this past summer.
- Staff attended all school open houses and all YS programs have either begun or will be starting by the first of October.
- The department has four interns this academic year: YS has two BSW interns from ECSU; Early Childhood Services has one intern from UConn: and the Senior Center has one intern from UConn.
- YS has 60 UConn volunteer mentors for its COPE and Big Friends program.
- MAC is in the process of conducting a parent survey. Current returns indicate a desire for MAC to focus on developing healthy lifestyles through nutrition and activity
- School Readiness program is up and running this year with a small waiting list to fill slots if they open up
- Social Workers for Adult and Senior Services have been busy with many new referrals over the past few months. Had a successful season assisting clients with applications for the Renters Rebate and tax relief programs.
- Back to School program served 23 low income children this summer

- So far 38 bus passes have been distributed. Persons over 60 ride the bus at no cost through a state program. UConn has expanded its WRTD program to include the Willimantic runs for students and employees
- Senior Center has seen a steady increase in attendance at all programs
- Trip and Volunteer Transportation program continue to see increase in participation.
- September is National Senior Center month. The SPARKS newsletter was mailed to all registered voters 55+ which has expanded interest and participation.
- YSB Grant funds have still not been awarded by the state. Are still waiting to hear if there are changes to the YSB, Youth Enhancement, NECASA and School Readiness Grant. Transportation grant was fully funded.
- Facility Needs site reviews and stakeholders meetings were held over the summer. Awaiting final drafts from the consultant.
- WRTD improvements in DAR services have been reported by users. A few very recent issues have been reported to staff and COA chair
- A reception honoring Betsy Paterson was held on September 23rd. \$2723 was donated in her honor to the Mansfield Human Services Special Needs Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.